(a) whether Government are aware that there is an agitation going on for and against Konkan Railway re-alignment;

(b) what is the reaction of Government; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to solve the Kokan Railway issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A One-man High Level Committee consisting of Justice G. J. Oza, retired Judge of Supreme Court of India has been appointed to look into the various issues relating to alignment of Konkan Railway line passing through Goa (Mayem-Bali) for a final decision.

Tender for manufacture by N.E. Railway Administration

1260. SHRI BRAHMADEO ANAND PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the N.E. Railway Administration has awarded the tender for manufacture, stocking, supply and loading of hand broken stone, from Railway quarry at Jamalpur to the highest bidder, black listed parties;

(b) whether there was another lowest bidder belonging to scheduled caste whose case was ignored;

(c) what were the claims of lower bidders;

(d) whether the policy of the Railway for giving preference to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes has been dispensed with; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No such tenders were awarded to the highest bidder and blacklisted parties.

(b) The lowest tender was ignored due to unsatisfactory past performance and inadequate credentials.

(c) There were no claims.

(d) and (e) As per Railway Policy tenders are decided only on merits of each case and not on the basis of religion, caste and creed.

Amount Spent on Advertisement by Railways

1261. SHRI MOHAMMAD AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what are the details of the amount spent by Railways on advertisement during the period from 1st April, 1992 to 31st March, 1993, language and zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Re-alignment of route of Konkan Railway in Goa

1262. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to a dispute for the re-alignment of route for 34 km of the 105 km route in Goa, the on-going work in the disputed sector has been suspended;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to end this dispute so that the work in that sector could start to end delay;

(c) whether final alignment of route in Goa has been dicided upon, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any financial difficulty for completion of this disputed sector of the route; if so, the measures taken to tackle it; and

(e) whether any step would be taken to ensure that the entire Konkan Railway Project will be completed by the stipulated date viz., October 1994?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A one-man High Level Committee consisting of Justice G. J. Oza, retired Judge of Supreme Court of India has been appointed to look into the various issues relating to alignment of Konkan Railway line passing through Goa. The alignment will be decided after the report of this Committee is received.

(d) There has been no special financial difficulty for the disputed sector. However, KRC has been facing shortage of funds mainly on account of the poor market conditions for tax-free bonds. With a view to providing more funds to the KRC, it has been decided to raise the equity base from Rs. 400 crores to Rs. 600 crores.